Public Information Statement
National Weather Service Albany NY
800 AM EDT Wed Nov 2 2016

...Winter Weather Awareness Week Continues...

October 30 to November 5 is Winter Weather Awareness Week in New York and New England.

This message provides information on one of the most hazardous winter weather events you may experience, the ice storm.

Heavy accumulations of ice can bring down trees and powerlines, topple utility poles and communication towers, and disrupt communications and power for days while utility companies repair extensive damage. Even small accumulations of ice can be extremely dangerous to motorists and pedestrians. Bridges and overpasses are particularly dangerous because they freeze before other surfaces.

Freezing rain is the result of falling snow that encounters a layer of warm air which melts the snow changing it to rain. The rain then freezes as it encounters below freezing air at or near the ground creating a film or glaze of ice. Most of eastern New York and western New England receive 20 to 30 hours of freezing rain annually.

The National Weather Service issues ice storm warnings for ice accumulations of half an inch or more and winter weather advisories for any ice accretion including freezing drizzle.

A catastrophic ice storm struck eastern New York and much of New England on December 11 and 12, 2008. The storm paralyzed the region for days with up to 1.8 million people without power. Ice accumulation on trees and power lines was as thick as an inch. Other damaging ice storms affected the Albany forecast area in February 1909, December 1929, December 1942, December 1948, January 1949, January 1956 and December 1964.

We issue frequent updates during active winter weather, that serve to give you the most up to the minute and detailed weather information available. In addition, we issue statements that follow up the issuance of watches, warnings or advisories.

Your Albany National Weather Service forecast office is available online and on social media. For weather and hydrologic information on the go, simply go to mobile.weather.gov and provide your location or zip code. This will get you the latest National Weather Service forecasts.

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